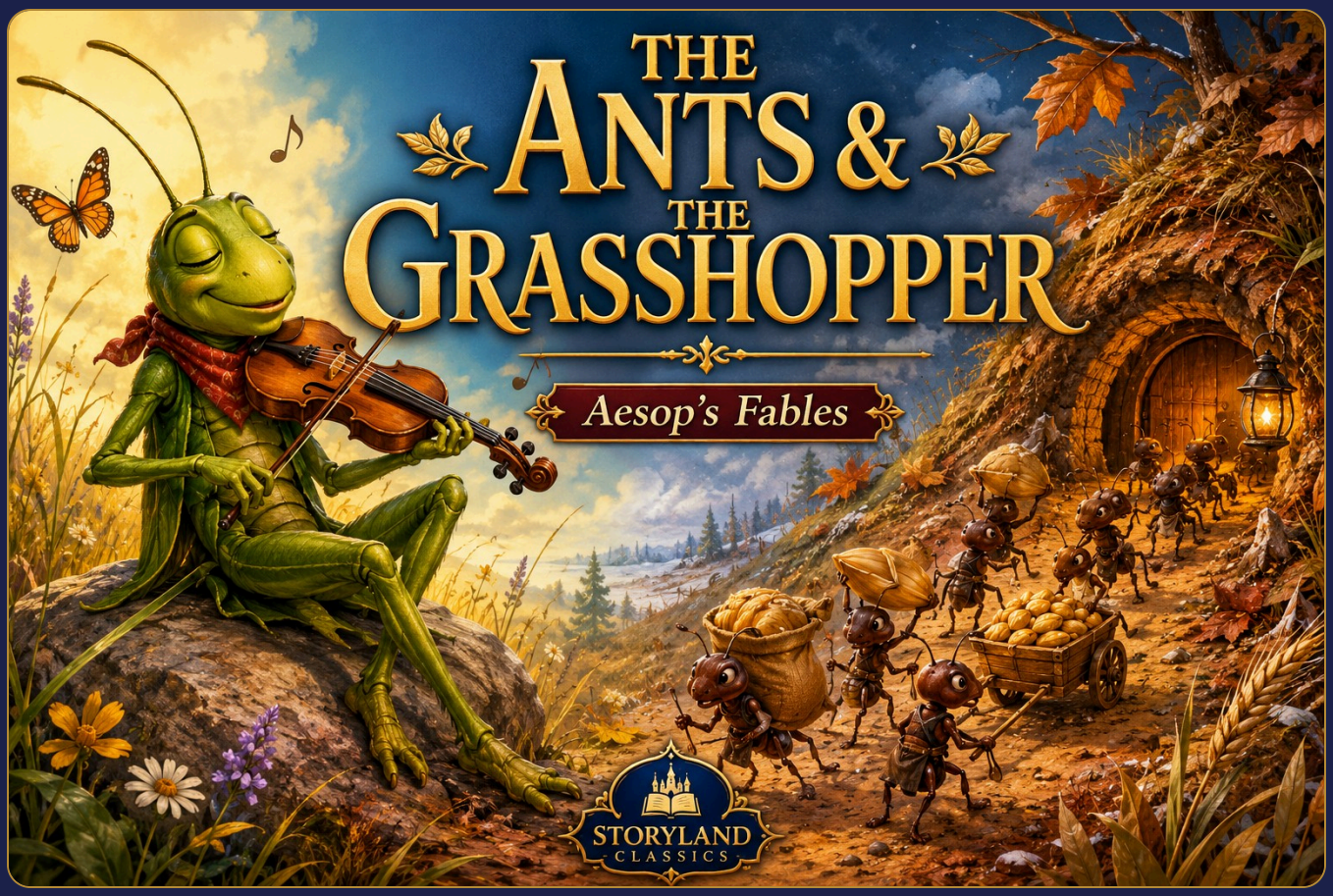
Storyland Classics

FREE STORY GUIDE

An Aesop fable, from The Æsop for Children (1919)



- ✦ Meet the Author
- ✦ The Big Idea & Try It
- ✦ Yes or No & ABC Order
- ✦ Read It With Voices
- ✦ Standards
- ✦ Story Map
- ✦ Word Match & Sort
- ✦ Put It in Order
- ✦ Handwriting
- ✦ Let's Talk
- ✦ Word Search
- ✦ Who Said It? & Feelings
- ✦ Answer Key

Ages 4–8 ✦ Pre-K to Grade 2 ✦ Aligned to Common Core

This cover is for your screen. Print from page 2 to save ink.

FOR GROWN-UPS

How to Use This Guide

This free guide goes with the Storyland Classics read-aloud of "The Ants and the Grasshopper." Every page is ready to print, and no sign-up is needed. Pick the pages that suit your child or class.

ABOUT THE STORY

One bright day in late autumn, a family of Ants is busy drying the grain they stored all summer. A starving Grasshopper with a fiddle under his arm comes and begs for a bite to eat. He had spent the whole summer making music instead of storing food. "Making music, were you?" say the Ants. "Very well; now dance!" And they go back to work. Many families like to talk about whether the Ants should have shared.

SKILL FOCUS

Compare and contrast: how the Ants and the Grasshopper spent the summer

WATCH AND READ ALONG

Scan the code to watch the read-aloud and read the full story, or visit storylandclassics.com/ants-guide. *The Æsop for Children* (1919), illustrated by Milo Winter. Public domain.

A simple routine

1. **Day 1.** Watch the read-aloud together, then fill in the Story Map.
2. **Day 2.** Meet the author, then use Let's Talk and The Big Idea.
3. **Day 3.** Learn the words with the word match, word sort and word search.
4. **Day 4.** Put the story in order, then perform it with voices.

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Standards

Every activity is aligned to the Common Core State Standards for kindergarten to grade 2. Codes appear at the bottom of each page, and the full table is on the last page.

Younger children

Children who aren't writing yet can answer out loud or tell a grown-up what to write.

Name _____ Date _____

MEET THE AUTHOR

Aesop

Ancient Greece, about 2,500 years ago

Aesop is remembered as a storyteller in ancient Greece more than 2,500 years ago. Little is known for sure about his life, and some people think many storytellers' fables were gathered under his name. His fables are short stories, usually about animals that talk and act like people, and each one ends with a lesson called a moral. Our fables come from *The Æsop for Children* (1919), with pictures by Milo Winter.

Questions About the Author

1. Where did Aesop live?

2. What is a fable?

3. What is a moral? Can you think of one you already know?

Name _____ Date _____

STORY MAP

The Ants and the Grasshopper



Look at the picture from the read-aloud. Who do you see? Then fill in the story map.

Characters

Who is in the story?

Setting

Where and when does it happen?

Problem

What goes wrong?

Solution

How is it fixed? How does it end?

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Name _____ Date _____

LET'S TALK

The Ants and the Grasshopper

Young children can answer out loud. Older children can write their answers.

REMEMBER

1. What were the Ants doing in the autumn?

2. What did the Grasshopper do all summer?

3. What did the Ants tell the Grasshopper?

THINK

4. Why didn't the Grasshopper have any food?

5. Should the Ants have shared their food? Why or why not?

CONNECT

6. How do you get ready for something that is coming, like a trip or a new school year?

NARRATION

Close the book and tell the fable back in your own words. How were the Ants and the Grasshopper different?

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Name _____ Date _____

THE BIG IDEA

What Does the Story Teach?

THE MORAL

"There's a time for work and a time for play." It is wise to get ready for the days ahead, and there is room for music and fun too.

What does this mean to you? Tell or write about a time it was true in your life.

Try It

SKILL FOCUS

Compare and contrast: how the Ants and the Grasshopper spent the summer

Make two lists: things that are work and things that are play in your day. Draw a star by one of each you will do today.

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Name _____ Date _____

WORDS TO KNOW

Word Match

Draw a line from each word to what it means.

autumn	very, very hungry
grain	moving around busily
stored	the season after summer; fall
starving	in a polite, quiet way
fiddle	saved for later
humbly	the cold season
bustling	seeds of plants like wheat and corn
winter	a violin

Word Sort: Work or Play?

Write each word in the right box.

storing grain · making music · carrying food · dancing · drying grain · singing · digging · playing the fiddle

Work	Play

Name _____ Date _____

WORD SEARCH

The Ants and the Grasshopper

Find the words from the story. Words go across (left to right) and down (top to bottom). Circle each word, then check it off.

W	I	N	T	E	R	A	N	T	S
U	P	N	L	W	H	D	F	L	U
R	U	I	E	W	R	A	O	W	G
H	G	S	A	G	F	N	O	B	P
K	T	U	B	R	I	C	D	Y	E
F	I	M	D	A	D	E	R	R	P
Y	I	M	L	I	D	H	U	I	Y
L	J	E	T	N	L	R	L	T	G
E	I	R	R	A	E	V	L	S	G
P	R	E	L	M	M	U	S	I	C

WORD BANK

- [ ] ANTS
- [ ] GRAIN
- [ ] FIDDLE
- [ ] MUSIC
- [ ] FOOD
- [ ] WINTER
- [ ] SUMMER
- [ ] DANCE

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Name _____ Date _____

CHECK YOUR READING

Yes or No?

Read each sentence about the story. Circle **Yes** if it is true. Circle **No** if it is not.

1. The Ants stored grain during the summer. Yes No
2. The Grasshopper had lots of food. Yes No
3. The Grasshopper carried a fiddle. Yes No
4. The Grasshopper spent the summer making music. Yes No
5. The Ants gave the Grasshopper a big dinner. Yes No
6. The Ants went back to work. Yes No

ABC Order

Write these words from the story in ABC order.

grain · fiddle · ants · winter · music

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

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Name _____ Date _____

PUT IT IN ORDER

What Happens First?

Read each sentence. Write 1 in the circle next to what happens first, 2 next to what happens next, and so on up to 6.

- ◯ The Ants say, “Now dance!”
- ◯ The Ants store grain all summer.
- ◯ The Ants go back to work.
- ◯ The Grasshopper begs for food.
- ◯ The Grasshopper says he was busy making music.
- ◯ Autumn comes and the Ants dry their grain.

Retell the Story

Use the order words to tell the story in your own words. Say it out loud, or write it.

First, _____

Next, _____

Then, _____

Last, _____

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Name _____ Date _____

CHARACTERS

Who Said It?

Read each line from the story. Write who said it. Use the name bank to help.

the Ants | the Grasshopper

"What in the world were you doing all last summer?" _____

"I didn't have time to store up any food." _____

"I was so busy making music that before I knew it the summer was gone." _____

"Making music, were you? Very well; now dance!" _____

How Did the Grasshopper Feel?

Write a feeling word for each part of the story. Use the word bank, or choose your own.

happy | carefree | hungry | worried | sorry | embarrassed | sad

When…	the Grasshopper felt…
he played music all summer	
autumn came	
he saw the Ants' grain	
he begged for food	
the Ants said "now dance!"	
the Ants turned their backs	

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Name _____ Date _____

PERFORM IT

Read It With Voices

Three or more readers take the parts. Several children can be the Ants and speak together!

NARRATOR	One bright day in late autumn the Ants were drying the grain they had stored up during the summer.
GRASSHOPPER	"Please, may I have a bite to eat?"
ANTS	"What! Haven't you stored anything away for the winter? What in the world were you doing all last summer?"
GRASSHOPPER	"I was so busy making music that before I knew it the summer was gone."
ANTS	"Making music, were you? Very well; now dance!"
EVERYONE	"There's a time for work and a time for play!"

My Favorite Part

My favorite part is _____

_____

because _____

_____

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Name _____ Date _____

HANDWRITING PRACTICE

The Ants and the Grasshopper

Trace the gray words, then write them on your own on the empty lines. Tall letters touch the top line; small letters reach the dotted line.

A time for work,

A time for work,

A time for work,

and a time for play.

and a time for play.

and a time for play.

☐ I started with a capital letter. ☐ I left spaces between words. ☐ I copied the end mark.

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FOR GROWN-UPS

Answer Key & Ideas

Story Map

Characters: the Ants, the Grasshopper. Setting: a field in late autumn, with winter coming. Problem: the Grasshopper has no food for winter. Solution: the Ants, who worked all summer, have plenty, but they will not share with the Grasshopper.

Let's Talk

1. Drying out the grain they had stored during the summer. 2. Made music. 3. "Making music, were you? Very well; now dance!" 4–6. Answers will vary; many newer versions have the Ants share.

Word Search

W	**I**	**N**	**T**	**E**	**R**	**A**	**N**	**T**	**S**
U	P	N	L	W	H	**D**	**F**	L	U
R	U	I	E	W	R	**A**	**O**	W	G
H	G	**S**	A	**G**	**F**	**N**	**O**	B	P
K	T	**U**	B	**R**	**I**	**C**	**D**	Y	E
F	I	**M**	D	**A**	**D**	**E**	R	R	P
Y	I	**M**	L	**I**	**D**	H	U	I	Y
L	J	**E**	T	**N**	**L**	R	L	T	G
E	I	**R**	R	A	**E**	V	L	S	G
P	R	E	L	M	**M**	**U**	**S**	**I**	**C**

Word Match & Sort

autumn: the season after summer; fall · grain: seeds of plants like wheat and corn · stored: saved for later · starving: very, very hungry · fiddle: a violin · humbly: in a polite, quiet way · bustling: moving around busily · winter: the cold season. Sort: Work: storing grain, carrying food, drying grain, digging. Play: making music, dancing, singing, playing the fiddle.

Yes or No? & ABC Order

1. Yes · 2. No · 3. Yes · 4. Yes · 5. No · 6. Yes. ABC order: ants, fiddle, grain, music, winter.

Put It in Order

the Ants store grain all summer → autumn comes and they dry their grain → the Grasshopper begs for food → he says he was busy making music → "Now dance!" → the Ants go back to work.

Who Said It?

1. the Ants · 2. the Grasshopper · 3. the Grasshopper · 4. the Ants

Ideas to extend the lesson

- Make a seasons wheel showing what ants do in each season.
- Rewrite the ending so the Ants and the Grasshopper help each other.
- Read it with The Owl and the Grasshopper, another fable with a musical grasshopper.

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FOR TEACHERS

Standards Alignment

The Ants and the Grasshopper ✦ Common Core State Standards, kindergarten to grade 2

STANDARDS	WHAT CHILDREN PRACTICE	WHERE IN THIS GUIDE
RL.K.1 RL.1.1 RL.2.1	Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.	Let's Talk and Yes or No?; Let's Talk
RL.K.2 RL.1.2 RL.2.2	Retell stories and poems, including key details, and show understanding of their message.	Put It in Order and Retell; Put It in Order and Retell; The Big Idea; The Big Idea
RL.K.3 RL.1.3 RL.2.3	Identify and describe characters, settings and major events.	Story Map and Character Feelings; Character Feelings
RL.K.4	Understand words and phrases, including rhyme, rhythm and words that appeal to the senses.	Word Match
RL.K.6 RL.1.6 RL.2.6	Identify who is speaking and use a different voice for each character when reading aloud.	Meet the Author; Who Said It?; Read It With Voices
RL.K.7 RL.1.7	Use illustrations and words together to describe characters, setting and events.	Story Map picture
RL.K.10 RL.1.10	Engage in group reading of poems and stories with purpose and understanding.	Reading the story together
RF.K.1b RF.K.1d	Understand the organization of print (left to right, top to bottom).	Word Search; ABC Order
RF.K.3c RF.1.3	Read common high-frequency words by sight.	Word Search
RF.1.4b RF.2.4b	Read aloud with accuracy, appropriate rate and expression.	Read It With Voices
SL.K.1 SL.1.1	Take part in conversations about the text with classmates and adults.	Let's Talk (discussion)
SL.K.2	Ask and answer questions about a text read aloud or presented through media.	Read-aloud video (QR code)
SL.K.5	Add drawings or other visual displays to descriptions as desired to provide additional detail.	Try It (drawing to add detail)
SL.K.6	Speak audibly and express ideas clearly.	Read It With Voices
L.K.1a L.1.1 L.1.1a	Print upper- and lowercase letters and use common position words.	Handwriting Practice; ABC Order
L.K.2a	Use capital letters and end punctuation.	Handwriting checklist
L.K.4 L.1.4	Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown words and phrases.	Word Match
L.K.5a	Sort words into categories, connect words to real life and act out shades of meaning.	Word Sort
W.K.1 W.1.1	Use drawing and writing to share an opinion and give a reason.	My Favorite Part
W.K.2	Use a combination of drawing, dictating and writing to compose informative texts.	Try It
W.1.8	With guidance and support, recall information from experiences or gather information to answer a question.	Try It

Codes are Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts. Find free read-alouds and guides at storylandclassics.com.